

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240372

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: QUITO MFM

REF: BRASILIA 8209

FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND BOWDLER

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR CONVERSATION
WITH SILVEIRA.

2. DESPITE OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS FROM FACIO AND OTHERS,
WE DOUBT THAT THE CO-SPONSORS CAN COUNT ON A TWO-THIRDS
VOTE AT QUITO IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE CUBA SANCTIONS. OUR
READING OF THE VOTING LINEUP AS OF THIS MOMENT FOLLOWS:

A. COMMITTED TO LIFTING SANCTIONS: ARGENTINA,
COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
MEXICO, PANAMA, PERU, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA
(11 VOTES).

B. SWING VOTES: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI, BOLIVIA
AND GUATEMALA. THE FIRST TWO ARE PROBABLY AFFIRMATIVE,
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MAKING A LIKELY TOTAL OF 13 VOTES. THE LAST TWO APPEAR

AT THIS POINT TO BE IN THE ABSTAIN COLUMN, BUT NOT CERTAINLY.

3. IN OUR JUDGMENT THE INCONCLUSIVE OUTCOME FORECAST BY THIS LINEUP HOLDS REAL DANGERS FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. IN THE WAKE OF A MAJORITY (BUT NOT TWO-THIRDS) VOTE IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE SANCTIONS VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA ARE LIKELY TO MOVE TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH CUBA IN DISREGARD OF THE JURIDICAL SITUATION. THE RIO TREATY WILL BE FURTHER DISCREDITED TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE SYSTEM'S CAPACITY TO COPE WITH ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS -- E.G., HONDURAS/SALVADOR, CHILE/PERU. THE DAMAGE TO THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK COULD AFFECT THE NEW DIALOGUE WHERE THE DIVISIVE AND STERILE CUBA ISSUE WOULD CONTINUE TO OCCUPY FIRST PLACE ON THE AGENDA.

4. WE NOW HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION APPROACHING THE SWING COUNTRIES TO POINT OUT THE DAMAGE SUCH A RESULT WOULD PRODUCE AND TO MAKE CLEAR OUR VIEW THAT EACH MEMBER STATE SHOULD VOTE ITS OWN INTERESTS -- INTERESTS WHICH PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF THESE SMALLER COUNTRIES ARE LINKED TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE RIO TREATY. WE WOULD EXPLAIN THAT OUR OWN INABILITY TO VOTE AFFIRMATIVELY RESULTS FROM THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS.

5. YOU MAY ALSO TELL SILVEIRA THAT OUR CURRENT INCLINATION IS TO ABSTAIN IF THE RESOLUTION IS SATISFACTORILY WORDED. YOU SHOULD ASK FOR HIS REACTIONS TO THE FOREGOING ASSESSMENT, WITH PARTICULAR RESPECT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN INCONCLUSIVE OUTCOME. IF HE IS IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH US, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING HIS VIEWS ON WHAT ACTION OUR TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT TAKE AT THIS JUNCTURE.

6. WITH REGARD TO PARA 4 REFTTEL, THE CHILEANS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THEIR RESOLUTION BEFORE IT CAME TO A VOTE.

7. FYI. ARAUJO CASTRO CALLED ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS TO LAMENT THAT THOUGH HE HAD PLEADED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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SILVEIRA FOR SOMETHING ABOUT BRAZIL'S POSITION WHICH HE COULD PASS ON HE HAD HEARD NOTHING. ON THE RECENT EXCHANGE SILVEIRA PREFERRED IN OTHER WORDS TO DEAL THROUGH CRIMMINS RATHER THAN THROUGH HIS EMBASSY HERE. THE CONVERSATION WAS ALSO INTERESTING FOR ARAUJO CASTRO'S STATEMENT THAT HE NOW HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WERE FOURTEEN VOTES. HE EVIDENTLY GOT THIS FROM SECRETARY GENERAL GALLO PLAZA, WHOSE PERCEPTIONS ARE

NOT ALWAYS CONSISTENT WITH THE REAL WORLD OF THE OAS.
INGERSOLL

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